



NORFOLK

TO: City Council

FROM: Bryan Pennington, Director of Intergovernmental Relations / Legislative Liaison

COPIES TO: Norfolk General Assembly Delegation; Norfolk Constitutional Officers; Marcus Jones, City Manager; Deputy City Managers; Bernard Pishko, City Attorney; Department Heads

SUBJECT: 2015 Virginia General Assembly Activity Report # 1

DATE: January 23, 2015

The 2015 Virginia General Assembly got off to a quick start last Wednesday (1/14) with several bills of interest or concern to Norfolk being introduced and currently considered. As of this date, 2,146 bills and resolutions have been introduced for consideration during the 45-day Session.

This year the Administration is attempting to make better use of available technology by providing links to the relevant documents that will be referred to in Council's weekly update on 2015 General Assembly Session activity. Also, rather than providing a summary of relevant goings on of our lawmakers, we have provided links to various reliable on-line news services covering the 2015 General Assembly Session.

Each Friday during Session, the Administration will transmit an updated activity report. The purpose of sending weekly activity reports on prioritized 2015 General Assembly bills is to provide an update on the Administration's current progress and in some instances seek policy direction from Council as the legislation of interest is being amended into final form during Session deliberations.

The primary objective of this week's first General Assembly Activity Report is to orient Council to Norfolk's requests, priorities, and state budget amendments currently being considered by the 2015 General Assembly.

Norfolk's 2015 Virginia General Assembly Legislative Priorities

The Council has asked the Administration to work with the Norfolk General Assembly Delegation, the Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia First Cities Coalition, and other statewide legislative coalitions as appropriate to successfully advance the following prioritized policy goals, objectives, and or specific requests during the 2015 GA Session:

1. Implement the interim recommendations of the Joint General Assembly Study Committee on Recurrent Statewide Flooding.

2. Enhance urban transportation and mobility options and support legislation that better facilitates the construction of the Patriots Crossing/3rd Crossing; light rail expansion; expansion of Norfolk Amtrak Trains 2 & 3; and provision of a dedicated funding source for transit.
3. Hold the City of Norfolk and Norfolk Public Schools harmless from additional cuts and meaningfully enhance state public education and accreditation improvement support.
4. Direct the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee to conduct an update study of the current transportation funding provision used by the Commonwealth to allocate transportation funds.
5. Proactively seek clarification regarding the Commonwealth's urban street maintenance payments.
6. Amend the Code of Virginia to provide state funding to local governments for bicycle and pedestrian trail construction and maintenance.
7. Enhance the Commonwealth's support of the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund.
8. Give priority to legislative bills and/or budget amendments that:
 - Advance the Hampton Roads Governor's School for Innovation & Entrepreneurship
 - Provide funding for the Norfolk Public School Technical High School
 - Increase the state's financial support/partnership on behavior and mental health care
 - Maintain or enhance HB 599 State support of police departments
 - Allow for a Hampton Roads Transportation Advisory Council to provide for a vote-designee under certain circumstances
 - Preserve red light camera authority
 - Enhance veterans workforce integration and efforts to address homelessness
 - Provide local option to regulate plastic retail bags
 - Strikes Opportunity Education Institute

Norfolk 2015 Priorities:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/d9ehhi3jf6dadsk/Norfolk%202015%20Priorities%20Package.pdf?dl=0>

Norfolk's Priority 2015 Virginia General Assembly Legislative Bills

As indicated previously, there a 2,100+ bills and resolution already introduced and we expect that number to increase significantly, as this is the last day for General Assembly members to introduce bills.

Below is a link to the City of Norfolk's updated 2015 "Priority" profile. It is a matrix of hyperlinked legislative bills that if enacted would accomplish Council's specific legislative request or advance the legislative policy guidance direction and prioritization expressed in the City of Norfolk 2015 Priorities Package. Norfolk's 2015 will continue to be updated with additional bills being added. Additional legislative profiles are also being populated by the Administration on bills Norfolk supports, opposes, currently reviewing, or no position.

Norfolk 2015 Priority Legislative Profile (January 23, 2015):

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/6lvfhz84v21n6ln/Priority.htm?dl=0>

Norfolk Priority 2015 General Assembly Budget Amendments

Norfolk is working in a larger coalition of proponents seeking budget amendments on the following prioritized items:

- Strike Aid to Locality Reversion for FY 16 (Patrons Senator Alexander and Delegate James)
- Teacher residency program for hard to staff eligible schools (Patrons Senator Norment and Delegate BaCote)
- Enhanced state funding for eligible schools opting to extend calendar year and/or school instruction hours (Senators Norment and Delegate Hester)
- Virginia Preschool Initiative Inflation Adjustment (Senators Miller and Vogel and Delegate Hester)
- Enhanced Enterprise Zone funding and a funding for Enterprise Zone Study (Senators Ruff and Alexander and Delegate BaCote)
- HB 599 State Funding for Local Police (Senator Locke and Delegate Carr)

Additional budget amendment information was not yet available to include in this activity report and will be expanded upon in next week's activity report with a hyperlinked matrix table to the actual budget amendments.

2015 Virginia General Assembly Committee Organization, Meeting Schedule, Member Contact Info.

Here is a link to both the House and Senate Committee Organization Chart with each committee's membership and regularly scheduled meeting time.

Virginia Senate Committee Organization and Schedule:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/898ino1n12lpa9/2015%20VA%20Senate%20Committees.pdf?dl=0>

Virginia House of Delegates Committee Organization and Schedule:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/fjt496ukz16jcdc/2015%20VA%20House%20Committees.pdf?dl=0>

2015 Virginia Senate Contact Info:

<http://apps.senate.virginia.gov/Senator/index.php>

2015 Virginia House of Delegates Contact Info:

<http://viriniageneralassembly.gov/house/members/members.php>

VML / VFC 2015 Legislative Program

Linked below are the 2015 legislative programs of our state association the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia First Cities Coalition.

Virginia Municipal League (VML) 2015 Legislative Program:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/la5ms3qtrxi9gkf/2015%20VML%20Legislative%20Program.pdf?dl=0>

Virginia First Cities (VFC) 2015 Legislative Priorities:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/g3y7yk5rs7wmqu9/VFC%202015%20LEGISLATIVE%20AGENDA%20-%20Final.docx?dl=0>

HRTPO / HRPDC 2015 Legislative Program

Linked below are the Hampton Roads Region's 2015 Legislative Programs for the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) and Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC). Norfolk is currently working with sister Hampton Roads local governments to advance the several legislative goals and objectives described. Additionally, there are several bills dealing with the recently created Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC); HRTAC Guidebook linked below.

HRTPO 2015 Legislative Priorities:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/e2udx3sex0np32i/HRTPO%202015%20Priorities%20Package.pdf?dl=0>

HRPDC 2015 Legislative Priorities:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/fu9gyb9pnsiu3d2/HRPDC%202015%20Legislative%20Agenda.pdf?dl=0>

HRTAC Guidebook:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/piqpvkjhb59g7/2014HRTAC_GuidebookNov.pdf?dl=0

2015 Virginia General Assembly Media Sources

If you are interested to get news reports or sign-up for 2015 General Assembly related breaking news on what is happening at the state capitol, here are a few links to media sources covering the important topics/legislation this 2015 VA General Assembly Session (no endorsement or recommendation offered):

Virginian-Pilot

<http://hamptonroads.com/blogs/pilot-politics>

<http://hamptonroads.com/politics>

Daily Press

<http://www.dailypress.com/topic/politics-government/laws-legislation/02006000-topic.html>

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/politics/>

Richmond Times Dispatch

<http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/government-politics/>

Virginia Public Access Project

<http://vpap.org/vanews/>